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two pages in telling us, in the worn-out language of heathen mythology, that it was morning; and were offended at the personification of Policy into a genius, than which nothing in the world could be more poetically unfortunate; and were all along in danger of being irretrievably *ennuyées* by the utter mendacity of the author's fancy, and the commonness of his allusions. However, we had very well got over all these and other stumbling-blocks, and read the last canto with tolerable ease, and were about at length to part with the author without any more violent concussions of soul, either pleasing or dreadful, when we arrived at 'the author's apology' on the last leaf. In this he informs us that this book is but the bare beginning, the incipient germ, the early dawn, of his projected work, and that the seven thousand lines which have already been given to the world, have only—can the reader imagine what?—'imparted sufficient impulse to the subject!'

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ART. XIII.—*The Emigrant's Guide to the Western and South-western States and Territories, comprising a Geographical and Statistical description of the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Ohio;—the Territories of Alabama, Illinois, and Michigan; and the Western parts of Virginia, Pennsylvania and New York. By William Darby. 8vo. pp. 312; New York, Kirk & Mercein, 1818.*

It would be unreasonable to quarrel with an author for faults and imperfections in his book, when we must at the same time acknowledge, that he has given a much more satisfactory work than any other extant, on the subject of which he treats. To present a complete geographical and statistical view of the whole western country, is an undertaking of great magnitude. No adequate information relative to so extensive a region can be acquired by the personal observation of any one individual,—the published materials for a full and intelligible description of it are very imperfect and contradictory,—and the official and private sources of information are very widely scattered, of doubtful authority, and of difficult access. The difficulty of acquiring satisfactory information on this subject is greatly increased, by the suspicion with which we are obliged to view all accounts of the different parts of the United States, from the prejudices under which almost all observers labour, and

the direct interest which many of them feel in extolling one portion of the country at the expense of another.

Mr. Darby is the author of a handsome and very valuable map, and a statistical account of the state of Louisiana and the parts adjacent, in which he has shown himself intimately acquainted with that part of the country, from his own observation, made in a long course of years, during which he was employed as a surveyor. So far therefore as personal experience can qualify one for the task of digesting a work of this description, few could enjoy superior advantages. His experience must not only have furnished him with a rich fund of materials for his work, but have taught him to what sources he might successfully resort for further knowledge. We accordingly find that he has collected a great deal of valuable information which has never before been published. It is not digested, however, with great skill, and perhaps not always selected with the greatest judgment. But as his life has been spent in the pursuits from which he derived the most important part of his information, relative to the countries which he describes, we ought not to complain that his education has not made him an accomplished scholar. We should have been much better satisfied with his work, had he informed us more distinctly from what sources he derived the different articles of information, and distinguished as far as possible that portion, for the accuracy of which we are to rely on his personal knowledge, from that which he states on other authority.

This book is 'accompanied by a Map of the United States, projected and engraved expressly for this work.' It is surprising that Mr. Darby, who has done himself honour by his map of Louisiana, should be willing to put his name to so miserable a performance as this map of the United States. It might have been expected that it would be enriched with some of the topographical information, furnished by his own map, respecting Louisiana and Mississippi; yet it is so deficient, that it gives the names of but two places in Louisiana, and one in Mississippi. It presents us two towns and two rivers only in the District of Maine, the same number in New Hampshire, and one town and no river in New Jersey. It is about equally scant in its details of other parts of the United States. So unpromising a frontispiece is calculated to excite a suspicion, at first view, about the character of the whole work. Yet further examination will satisfy the reader, that it bears marks of intelligence, fidelity and patient industry.